for overall policy formulation and coordination of vocational education programmes.

(c) and (d) So far two meetings of JCVE have been held on 8-8-90 and 6-1-1993. Various important issues relating to vocational education were discussed in these meetings. The Council supported the multi-pronged action for improving the quality of vocational education during the 8th Plan.

Condition of Museums in the Country

1439. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Times of India' dated the 18th January, 1993 regarding the poor conditions of the museums in the country; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken by Government to remove the deficiences and improve the workings?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The majority of the measures mentioned in the news-item are either private museums or State museums. In so far as the museums that are with the Central Government as far as possible, adequate care is being taken. A scheme is also in existence for financial assistance to private museums and museums under the various universities. In so far as state museums are concerned like Madras Museum, Mathura Museum etc., the State Governments are responsible for their upkeep and maintenance. In the Eighth Plan, a new scheme has also been introduced for setting up and maintenance of museums depicting regional and local culture.

Book Exhibitions

1440. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the number of book exhibitions sponsored by Government and semi-Governmental agencies during the last threeyears together with the details in this regard and financial assistance extended for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): The major Government agency concerned with book publication is the Publications Division of the Information & Broadcasting Ministry and the principal semi-Government agency for Book Promotion is the National Book Trust. According to information furnished by Information & Broadcasting Ministry the Publications Division has not sponsored any book exhibition by other agencies during the last 3 years. As regards National Book Trust the Trust had sponsored 3 book Fairs/Festivals with financial implication of Rs. 2.17 lakhs and 210 Book Exhibitions with the financial implication of Rs. 7.64 lakh during the calender year 1990, 1991 and 1992.

Equal Opportunities of Education to the SC/ST Students

1441. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the measures being taken by Government to remove the educational disparities and provide equal opportunities of education for the students of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Some of the measures being taken by the Central and State Governments to remove educational disparities and provide equal opportunities of education for the students of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are: